Vladimir Ivanovich Kuznetzov

28 February 1929 – 22 August 2008

Vladimir Ivanovich Kuznetzov, a leading Russian lepidopterologist, Professor of Entomology and Doctor of Biological Sciences, passed away on August 22, 2008 at the age of 79. His scientific career started in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) at the State University with his PhD thesis "The Lepidoptera of Western Kopetdagh, their ecology and economical value", which was prepared under the guidance of the famous Russian entomologist Prof. A. S. Danilevsky. From 1955, Vladimir Kuznetzov held various positions on the scientific staff of the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg), where for a long period (1969–2002) he was head of Lepidoptera department in the Laboratory of Insect Taxonomy.

The vast scientific heritage of Prof. Kuznetzov includes more than 200 published works. He has described 3 new subfamilies, 9 tribes, 37 genera and subgenera, and 353 species and subspecies belonging to 20 different families of Lepidoptera. Furthermore, together with Prof. Stekolnikov he established 6 infraorders and 1 family. Prof. Kuznetzov made a significant contribution to the systematics of the very large and economically important family Tortricidae, in which he was among the main world experts. In the leaf-rollers alone he described more than 300 taxa of various rank.

Prof. Kuznetzov always had very wide range of scientific interests, from mining moths to butterflies, and many different aspects of lepidopteran ecology as well. Amongst his

most significant works were the papers on the leaf-rollers of the Amur region, where the ecological factors determining seasonal dynamics and phenological differentiation of the regional fauna are analyzed. Furthermore, he also contributed to studies in applied entomology, for example in the middle of the last century publishing a series of articles devoted to the pests of cultured and wild trees and shrubs in the southern parts of the former USSR. Later, in the 1990s, Prof. Kuznetzov edited two large 'lepidopterous' volumes of the well-known handbook "Insects and Mites – Pests of Agricultural Plants". During the last quarter of 20th century he concentrated on the problems of phylogeny and systematics of the order Lepidoptera, based mainly on the functional morphology of the male genitalia. For his fundamental work "New Approaches to the System of Lepidoptera of World Fauna" (published in co-authorship with Prof. A. A. Stekolnikov in 2001) Prof. Kuznetzov was honoured with the E. N. Pawlowsky Award in 2002.

The scientific work of Prof. Kuznetzov also won international acknowledgement. On many occasions he was invited to the largest European museums (Berlin, Budapest, Bucharest, Helsinki, Krakov, London) to study the collections and carry out cooperative research projects. For his impressive achievement in lepidopterology Prof. Kuznetzov was elected an Honorary Member of the Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica (SEL) in 1998 and Sociedad Hispano-Luso-Americana de Lepidopterologia (SHILAP) in 2000.

As with most of the true naturalists, Prof. Kuznetzov enjoyed travelling, using every possible opportunity for field work and collecting material. The geographical scope of his journeys covered the vast territory of the former USSR from the White Sea coast at the north to the Transcaucasus and Turkmenistan at the south and Kuril Islands at the east. In 1986 and 1988 he took part in two large and highly successful zoological expeditions to Northern and Southern Vietnam, which discovered hundreds of insect species new to science.

Prof. Kuznetzov was always generous in sharing his extensive knowledge and wide experience with other people. Under his guidance over 25 young researchers from Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Georgia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan completed their PhD theses; among them such well known lepidopterologists like S. Baryshnikova, E. Beljaev, J. De Prins, P. Ivinskis, V. Kononenko, A. Lvovsky, V. Mironov, M. Omelko, M. Ponomarenko, R. Puplesis, A. Zhdanko, and many others. All friends, colleagues and students of Prof. Kuznetzov will retain very pleasant memories of this unusual and very interesting person.

For the full list of publications by V. I. Kuznetzov and details of his biography see Sinev & Lvovsky (2009) and Vives Moreno (2009).

Sergey Sinev

References

Sinev, S. Yu. & A. L. Lvovsky 2009. In memory of V. I. Kuznetzov (1929–2008). – Entomologicheskoe obozrenie **88** (1): 214–227.

Vives Moreno, A. 2009. In memoriam Profesor Doctor Vladimir Ivanovitsch Kuznetzov 1929–2008. – SHILAP Revista de lepidopterologia 37 (145): 5–14.